(ii) The deficiencies pointed out by FICCI study are being addressed through upgradation of Government ITIs under World Bank assisted Vocational Training Improvement Project and scheme of up gradation of 1396 Government ITIs through Public Private Partnership.

Increasing child labourers in the era of liberalisation

†1161. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of child labourers at present in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the era of liberalization also, the number of child labourers has increased by 10 per cent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the child labourers rescued from bonded labour meet the same fate again in the absence of guarantee for rehabilitation from the State Government; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to eradicate this problem of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per the latest Census 2001, the number of child labour in the country is 1.26 crore.

(b) As per the figures of Census 2001, there was an increase of about 10% in the number of child labourers in the country as compared to 1991 Census.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour grants are released to the State Governments for rehabilitation of identified/ released bonded labours on 50:50 sharing basis including bonded child labour. State Governments are advised from time to time for follow up of the cases, rehabilitated by them, so that no occasion of relapse is reported.

(d) Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of 20 States of the country for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations. Under the scheme, these children are put into special schools where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend and health care facilities etc.

Denial of social security to people in unorganized sector

1162. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many industries in the unorganized sector refuse to issue appointment letter to its employees;

(b) if so, whether this is causing denial of EPF and ESI benefits to large sections of working people;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take to protect the workers from exploitation by the employers in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is an established practice in organized sector to issue appointment letters to workman. But many establishments in unorganized sector are not following this established practice. However, under Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act it is the statutory responsibility of the employers to issue employment cards to Contract Labours. Whenever violations are detected, efforts are made to rectify the irregularities failing which prosecution cases are launched against defaulting employers.

Industrial park scheme

1163. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Industrial Park Scheme being operated by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent the revised proposal to Government of India on the Industrial Park Ordinance in 2006 for obtaining the approval; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Industrial Park Scheme aims at encouraging private investment in development of eligible projects in which high quality infrastructure is made available in a centralized manner, so that the units operating from such projects can have the benefit of lower transaction cost and shorter start up time. Under this Scheme, tax exemption under Section 80 IA of Income Tax Act, 1961, is available to undertakings accorded approval under the Scheme, for any ten consecutive years out of fifteen years beginning from the year in which the undertaking commences operation.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The revised proposal as suggested by the Ministry of Labour and Employment has not been received from the Government of Gujarat on the Industrial Park Ordinance.

Amendment in Central Labour Laws for SEZ

†1164. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been sent by the Madhya Pradesh Government to the Central Government to amend Central Labour Laws for Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Indore, Madhya Pradesh;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.